

CLAIMS

1. Cosmetic use of phytosphingosine or of one of its cosmetically acceptable salts, particularly its hydrochloride, as a slimming agent for preparing a cosmetic composition intended for reducing subcutaneous excess fat.

2. Cosmetic use of phytosphingosine or of one of its cosmetically acceptable salts, particularly its hydrochloride, as an active agent which stimulates the synthesis of leptin by adipocytes, for preparing a cosmetic composition intended for reducing subcutaneous excess fat.

3. The cosmetic use according to claim 1 or 2, characterised in that the phytosphingosine or one of its salts, particularly its hydrochloride, is used at a concentration of between 0.001% and 1%, and preferably between 0.05% and 0.5%, by weight with respect to the total weight of said composition.

4. The use according to one of claims 1 to 3, characterised in that the phytosphingosine or its cosmetically acceptable salt, particularly its hydrochloride, is used for preparing said composition in combination with at least one cosmetically acceptable lipolytic agent.

5. The use according to claim 4, characterised in that said lipolytic agent is adenosine-3',5'-cyclic monophosphate (cAMP) or one of its cosmetically acceptable derivatives, preferably selected from its salts and its acylated derivatives, notably a mono- or dibutyl derivative.

6. The use according to claim 5, characterised in that the cAMP or its derivative is used at a concentration of between 0.001% and 5% by weight with respect to the total weight of said composition.

7. The use according to claim 4, characterised in that said lipolytic agent is an adenylate cyclase enzyme activating agent.

8. The use according to claim 7, characterised in that said adenylate cyclase enzyme activating agent is forskolin or a plant extract containing it.

5 9. The use according to claim 8, characterised in that the forskolin or the plant extract containing it is used at a concentration of between 0.001% and 1%, preferably between 0.05% and 0.25%, by weight with respect to the total weight of said composition.

10 10. The use according to claim 8 or 9, characterised in that said extract containing forskolin is an extract of *Coleus forskohlii* or *Plectranthus barbatus*.

15 11. The use according to claim 7, characterised in that the adenylate cyclase activating agent is an extract of the plant *Tephrosia purpurea*, at a concentration of between 0.001% and 5% by weight, preferably between 0.01% and 5% by weight, with respect to the total weight of said composition.

20 12. The use according to claim 4, characterised in that said lipolytic agent is a phosphodiesterase enzyme inhibiting agent.

25 13. The use according to claim 12, characterised in that said phosphodiesterase inhibiting agent is a xanthine, particularly 3-isobutyl-1-methyl-xanthine or IBMX, caffeine or theophylline.

30 14. The use according to claim 13, characterised in that said xanthine is used at a concentration of between 0.001% and 10% by weight, preferably of between 0.01% and 1% by weight, with respect to the weight of said composition.

35 15. A method of cosmetic treatment intended for obtaining a slimming effect on the human body, characterised in that it consists in applying, on the parts of the body where said effect is sought, an effective amount of a cosmetic composition containing phytosphingosine or one of its cosmetically acceptable salts, particularly its hydrochloride.

16. The method of cosmetic treatment according to claim 15, characterised in that said cosmetic composition further contains at least one cosmetically acceptable lipolytic agent.

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17. The method of cosmetic treatment according to claim 16, characterised in that the lipolytic agent is selected from the group consisting of cAMP and its derivatives, activators of adenylate cyclase, particularly extracts of *Tephrosia purpurea*, forskolin and plant extracts
10 containing it such as extracts of *Coleus forskohlii* or *Plectranthus barbatus*, and inhibitors of phosphodiesterase, particularly xanthines, notably 3-isobutyl-1-methyl-xanthine or IBMX, caffeine and theophylline, said lipolytic agent being present in said composition at a concentration as defined in claims 6, 9 and 14.

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18. A cosmetic composition, notably intended for reducing subcutaneous excess fat, characterised in that it contains, as active agents,

- phytosphingosine or one of its cosmetically acceptable salts, particularly
20 its hydrochloride, and
- at least one lipolytic agent selected from the group consisting of cAMP and its cosmetically acceptable lipolytic derivatives, adenylate cyclase enzyme activating agents and phosphodiesterase enzyme inhibiting agents,
25 in a cosmetically acceptable vehicle.

19. The cosmetic composition according to claim 18, characterised in that it contains from 0.001 to 1%, and preferably from 0.05 to 0.5%, by weight of phytosphingosine or of one of its cosmetically
30 acceptable salts, particularly its hydrochloride.

20. The cosmetic composition according to claim 18 or 19, characterised in that the lipolytic agent is cAMP or one of its cosmetically acceptable derivatives, preferably selected from its salts and its acylated
35 derivatives, notably a mono- or dibutyryl derivative.

21. The cosmetic composition according to claim 20, characterised in that cAMP or its lipolytic derivative is present at a concentration of between 0.001% and 5% by weight with respect to the total weight of said composition.

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22. The cosmetic composition according to claim 18, characterised in that the lipolytic agent is an adenylate cyclase enzyme activating agent.

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23. The cosmetic composition according to claim 22, characterised in that said adenylate cyclase enzyme activating agent is forskolin or a plant extract containing it.

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24. The cosmetic composition according to claim 23, characterised in that the forskolin or the extract containing it is present at a concentration of between 0.001% and 1%, and preferably between 0.05% and 0.25%, by weight with respect to the total weight of said composition.

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25. The cosmetic composition according to claim 23 or 24, characterised in that the plant extract is an extract of *Coleus forskohlii* or *Plectranthus barbatus*.

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26. The cosmetic composition according to claim 22, characterised in that said adenylate cyclase activating agent is an extract of the plant *Tephrosia purpurea*.

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27. The cosmetic composition according to claim 26, characterised in that the extract de *Tephrosia purpurea* is present at a concentration of between 0.001% and 5% by weight, preferably between 0.01% and 5% by weight, with respect to the total weight of the composition.

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28. The cosmetic composition according to claim 18, characterised in that the lipolytic agent is a phosphodiesterase enzyme inhibiting agent.

29. The cosmetic composition according to claim 28, characterised in that said phosphodiesterase inhibiting agent is a xanthine, particularly 3-isobutyl-1-methyl-xanthine or IBMX, caffeine or theophylline.

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30. The cosmetic composition according to claim 29, characterised in that said xanthine is present at a concentration of between 0.001% and 10%, preferably of between 0.01% and 1%, by weight with respect to the total weight of the composition.